

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Miniature Precision Components - Walworth

Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Setup Reduction Delivers Results At Miniature Precision Components

Client Profile:

Miniature Precision Components, Inc., recently named Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year, is a supplier of molded and extruded thermoplastic components and assemblies for the automotive and commercial industries. The company is located in Walworth, Wisconsin and employs 470 people.

Situation:

Miniature Precision Components, Inc. (MPC) wanted to reduce machine down time, increase production output capacity, avoid the purchase of new equipment, and improve its ability to respond quickly to customer change orders. The company contacted the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

WMEP helped MPC implement a setup reduction project to pinpoint areas targeted for improvement. WMEP explained the concepts of setup reduction to MPC's team, and then timed and videotaped each setup activity as it occurred. Using this videotape, WMEP evaluated the current situation, separated internal versus external setup procedures, and developed ways to shift internal setup to external setup and reduce overall setup time. WMEP also helped MPC develop standardized operating procedures. After MPC made the recommended changes to its setup process, WMEP re-timed and videotaped the process again. The team knocked a full hour off its setup time, increased machine capacity, and the company achieved all its goals.

Results:

Reduced overall setup time by 37 percent.

Reduced specific line setup by 1 hour.

Increased machine capacity to clear out a backlog.

Improved product quality and the flow and delivery of product to subsequent processes.

Saving \$200,000 per year.

Testimonial:

"[The Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership taught us that] a lot of this is common sense—like don't shut down the existing job until you have all

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the things you need for the changeover."

Brett Toberman, Injection Molding Manager